



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Boaters launch for free Sept. 20 at Corps fee ramps

Walla Walla, Wash. – The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will join other federal agencies in waiving day-use fees at its recreation areas nationwide on Sept. 20.

This date coincides with the celebration of National Public Lands Day. Millions of Americans volunteer their time and effort on this occasion to build nature trails, improve recreation areas, clean up trash and debris or walk, hike or swim on our public lands and waters.

Four District boat-launching ramps that usually charge a user fee will drop all charges for use that day – Greenbelt and Swallows Park launch ramps in Clarkston, Wash., and Turner Gulch launch ramp at Lucky Peak Dam near Boise, Idaho.

In waiving day-use fees, the Corps encourages all Americans to take part in National Public Lands Day activities or just enjoy the nation's public lands and waters.

"Americans seek out the beauty and variety of our nation's public lands to enhance their active lifestyles. We welcome all visitors to enjoy our parks and realize the benefits that result from engaging in outdoor recreation activities," said Maj. Gen. Robert H. Griffin, the Corps' deputy commanding general.

The Corps is one of the nation's largest providers of outdoor recreation, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 456 projects, mostly lakes, and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local park and recreation authorities or private interests. The Corps hosts about 375 million visits each year at its lakes, beaches and other areas, and estimates that 25 million Americans, one in ten, visit a Corps project at least once a year to recreate.

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More information about the Corps' recreation program is available at <http://www.usace.army.mil/recreation>. Information about National Public Lands Day is at <http://www.npld.com/background.htm>.

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